

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Denise Juneau, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Denise Juneau began her second term as Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction on January 7, 2013.

Under her tenure, test scores are up and dropout rates are down. Her initiative, Graduation Matters Montana, has schools and communities working together to implement locally-developed plans to keep more students in school. Additionally, the state has raised standards in English and Math and is providing more opportunity for students to access higher education.

Denise is the first American Indian woman to serve in a statewide elected office. She graduated from Browning High School in Browning, Montana. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Montana State University, her Master of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Montana School of Law. Please contact Denise at 406.444.5658 or opisupt@mt.gov.

Candy Lubansky, Deputy Superintendent

Candy has served as a public educator for 40 years. Her work experience includes special education teacher and administrator, building principal and district superintendent. Candy has worked in Washington state, Minnesota and now Montana. From 2010 to 2015 she served as Superintendent of Belgrade Public Schools. In addition she served on the Gallatin College Advisory Council for 4 years and on the Greater Gallatin United Way Board for 5 years. Please contact Candy at 406.444.7325 or clubansky@mt.gov.

Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff

Quinlan has worked for the Office of Public Instruction for 25 years. Her duties focus on coordinating OPI's legislative agenda, supervising OPI's communication functions, providing Cabinet level support for the agency's K-12 education information systems and providing leadership support to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Please contact Madalyn at 406.444.3168 or mquinlan@mt.gov.

Ann Gilkey, Chief Legal Counsel

Ann previously worked as the Equal Justice Coordinator for the State Bar of Montana, Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Family Services, Supervising Attorney for the Department of Public Health and Human Services, program specialist for the Montana Supreme Court Assessment program, and taught Child Advocacy as an Adjunct Professor at the University Of Montana School Of Law. Ann has served on various local and state boards, including Child Care Partnerships, the Board of Social Work Examiners, Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists, CASA of MT and the Children's Trust Fund.

Ann received her J.D. and School Psychology M.A./Ed.S. from The University of Montana. She resides in Helena with her husband, Jay Erickson and children, Sam and Zoë. Please contact Ann at 406.444.4402 or agilkey@mt.gov.

Emilie Ritter Saunders, Communications Director

Emilie joined the Office of Public Instruction in May 2015 after spending the last decade as a public radio journalist in Montana and Idaho. Emilie is a skilled storyteller, editor, digital content manager and communications strategist. Her work has been heard on the BBC, CBC, National Native News, and on NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. Her work has also appeared in Reuters, the *Idaho Statesman*, and the *Missoulian*.

Emilie is a proud product of Montana's public school system. She attended Great Falls' Lincoln Elementary, Missoula's Rattlesnake Middle School and Hellgate High School. Emilie graduated from the University Of Montana School Of Journalism in 2007.

Please contact Emilie at 406.444.3160 or ersaunders@mt.gov, or on Twitter [@emiliersaunders](https://twitter.com/emiliersaunders).

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director

Judy is currently State Assessment Director. Prior to joining OPI, she served as an Adjunct instructor for the University of Great Falls and taught public school in Great Falls. Judy received her B.A. from Westminster College in Salt Lake City and her Ed.M. from Harvard University. She has been an active member of numerous organizations including the American Association of University Women which provided a grant to support her founding and directing a summer computer camp for middle school girls. Please contact Judy at 406.444.3656 or jsnow@mt.gov

Jael Prezeau, Ed.D., Administrator, Content Standards and Instruction Division

Jael joined the Superintendent's staff in July 2012 to lead the statewide implementation of the Montana Common Core Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy Standards, which were adopted by the Board of Public Education in November 2011. Dr. Prezeau also leads OPI's review, revision, and implementation process of other Montana Content Standards, as well as the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiative, and Math-Science Partnership Projects.

Jael has more than 30 years of experience working in Montana schools. Please contact Jael at 406.444.3128 or jprezeau@mt.gov.

Deborah Halliday, Community Learning Partnerships Policy Advisor

Halliday worked for the past eight years advising non-profit organizations on issues of strategic planning, leadership development, and communications. Prior to that, she served as Director of Planning and Development for Partnership Health Center in Missoula, and as Chief Aide for the Senate Minority Office of the Montana State Legislature in 1995. Halliday is a graduate of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs' Master's program in Public Administration, where she focused on Social Welfare Policy. Please contact Deb at 406.444.3559 or dhalliday@mt.gov.

Terry Kendrick, Special Projects Director

Terry Kendrick has a background in policy advocacy and worked in the non-profit sector for more than 25 years. She has also worked as an organizational consultant providing strategic planning, conflict resolution, and meeting facilitation for a variety of organizations. In 2008 she coauthored *Moving Women Forward: Strategies for Success*, a report for the National Partnership for Women and Families. Ms. Kendrick holds an M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University. As the Special Projects Director, she works on issues such as civic education, dual enrollment, Farm to School, and Safe Schools. Please contact Terry at 406.444.3449 or tkendrick@mt.gov.

Billie LeDeau, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Billie joined the Office of Public Instruction in January 2011. She recently served as the Administrative Officer for Governor Brian Schweitzer's Office of Indian Affairs. Prior to the Governor's Office, she was the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner of Academic & Student Affairs at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System. She graduated from UM Helena College with an A.A.S. degree in Computer Technology. Please contact Billie at 406.444.5658 or bledeau@mt.gov.

Jordann Lankford, GMM Program Specialist

Jordann is Great Falls native who graduated from Charles M. Russell High School in 2006. Her family is enrolled members of the Gros Ventre, Blackfeet, and Little Shell Tribes of Montana. For the past year, Jordann was with Great Falls Public Schools and served as an American Indian Academic Achievement Coach for Charles M. Russell High School and Paris Gibson Education Center. She helped to found an American Indian leadership group named interTRIBALStrong which focuses on community service.

In 2012, Jordann graduated from the University of Montana with a teaching certificate in Broad Field Social Sciences and a major in Native American Studies. While attending the U of M, Jordann volunteered with after school assistant programs and co-founded the Native Wellness Institute of Missoula. She also received a minor in English, and was a recipient of the James P. Welch Native American Creative Writing Scholarship. After college, Jordann became the Director of Indian Education for North Toole County High School in Sunburst, Montana. Please contact Jordann at 406.444.3526 or jlankford@mt.gov.

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